

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



BUILDUP OF SOVIET FORCES
NEAR THE CHINA BORDER
AND IN MONGOLIA

[Redacted Box]

FEBRUARY 1969

COPY 120

15 PAGES

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Increasing levels of Soviet military activity in those areas of the USSR bordering on China and inside Mongolia have been observed on [] photography during the period between []

Activity observed includes the construction or expansion of permanent ground forces installations and airfields and increases in military equipment. The rate at which equipment, vehicles, and aircraft have been introduced along the border, the new types of equipment identified, and the new construction and improvement of existing facilities for ground and air forces all indicate that a high-priority effort has been made and continues to be made to constitute a major force-in-being along the main communication routes between the USSR and China.

INTRODUCTION

Covering the entire Soviet border with China, as well as Mongolia, this report summarizes information derived from [] photography of the period from [] through the end of []. Previously the information has been reported on the basis of individual missions, but as evidence of increased military activity accumulated, particularly in the latter part of [] a review of the recent past was undertaken and presented in a number of briefings in the Washington area. In response to several requests, the substance of these briefings is presented in report form as an analytical aid. Further information concerning developments and equipment observed at each installation may be obtained from OAK and OAK Supplements and the Target Brief Files, which are maintained at NPIC.

Activity observed includes the construction or expansion of permanent ground forces installations and airfields. Associated equipment detected includes some of the newest in the Soviet inventory: the SCALEBOARD missile system and the wheeled SCUD surface-to-surface missile (which have not been observed deployed elsewhere in the Soviet Union), the new T-62 medium tank, the T-55 tank-launched bridge, and two new types of river patrol boats. Aircraft introduced into the border area include FIDDLER supersonic long-range interceptors and FLAGON supersonic point interceptors. Increasing numbers of tactical combat and support aircraft normally employed in support of ground forces have appeared both in the USSR and Mongolia.

During the past year, construction at the identified facilities has neared completion, and larger volumes of ground forces equipment and aircraft continued

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to be introduced. The major increase in activity has occurred in the Transbaykal and Far East Military Districts (MDs) and in Mongolia, but activity has also been observed, though to a lesser degree, along the Sino-Soviet border in the Turkestan MD. No significant buildup activity has been noted in the Siberian MD.

ACTIVITY AT GROUND FORCES INSTALLATIONS

A major increase of Soviet ground forces along the Sino-Soviet border and within Mongolia has been observed in the last four years, and especially during [] Most of the buildup is concentrated east of the 100th meridian, in the Transbaykal MD and Far East MD in the USSR and within Mongolia, where elements of two Soviet divisions have been identified (Figure 1).

Of the large number of Soviet ground forces installations in the border areas, 32 have shown major increases and 25 others have had lesser but noteworthy increases in activity. This activity includes extensive construction of new military facilities, a large increase in numbers and types of military equipment, and deployment of some of the newest and most advanced weapons in the Soviet arsenal.

New construction within the 32 areas of major increases consists of more than 2,000 buildings built since [] In the same period, the number of vehicles and pieces of equipment in the border areas has increased by more than 20,000. Since [] the number of tanks observed has increased by 2,480 (the equivalent of more than six tank divisions), the number of field artillery pieces has increased by 700 (the equivalent of more than four field artillery divisions), and facilities and equipment for at least six, and probably seven, additional motorized rifle divisions have been observed along the border. It is important to realize that these figures for vehicles and equipment are minimums; covered storage, partial photographic coverage, and bad weather conditions have limited interpretation. The true increase is probably higher.

Worthy of note also are the presence of battalion- or brigade-sized decontamination units, a recent increase of free rocket over ground (FROG) equipment, vehicles associated with airborne troops, appreciable numbers of river-crossing vehicles, and the introduction of helicopters at or near ground force installations. Furthermore, ground force equipment has been observed in unusual places such as at airfields and at an MRBM site. Among the newest and most advanced items of equipment deployed in the Soviet border area are T-62 tanks, ZIL-130 cargo trucks, MAZ-543 wheeled SCUD transporter-erector launchers (TEs), and the new type T-55 tank-launched bridge.

Table 1 provides additional details on military ground forces activity in the border area. Throughout the table "extensive construction" indicates an increase of at least 25 percent and "facilities expanded" indicates an increase of at least 15 percent. The Table is keyed to Figure 1.

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Table 1. Activity at Ground Forces Installations, (Keyed to Figure 1).

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Item	Installation	Type of Activity
TURKESTAN MILITARY DISTRICT		
1	Alma-Ata Army Bks North AL 7 43-23N 076-59E	Increase of approximately 200 vehicles or pieces of equipment. Extensive construction.
2	Sary Ozek Army Barracks AL 1 44-21N 077-57E	Increase of 130 tanks & 260 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
3	Otar Military Barracks North AL 1 43-34N 075-12E	Increase of approximately 800 vehicles or pieces of equipment
4	Pereval Kurday Army Bks AL 1 43-19N 074-56E	New installation; 152 tanks & 520 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
5	Druzhba Army Barracks AL 1 45-13N 082-29E	Facilities have been expanded.
6	Rybachye Army Barracks 42-28N 076-12E	Facilities have been expanded; increase of approximately 100 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
7	Malay-Sary Probable Military Installation 44-15N 077-41E	New installation; approximately 200 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
TRANSBAYKAL MILITARY DISTRICT		
8	Nizhnoudinsk Army Barracks 54-54N 099-03E	Increase of 120 tanks & 800 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
9	Ulan-Ude Army Barracks Divizionaya AL 1 51-53N 107-31E	Increase of approximately 500 vehicles or pieces of equipment. Extensive construction.
10	Ulan-Ude Army Barracks Taltsy AL 3 51-51N 107-50E	New installation; 59 tanks and approximately 50 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
11	Kyakhta Army Barracks AL 1 50-20N 106-26E	Installation has quadrupled in size since increase of 220 tanks & 900 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
12	Naushki Army Barracks 50-23N 106-06E	New installation; 220 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
13	Chita Army Barracks Peschanka AL 1 51-59N 113-34E	Increase of more than 300 tanks & 700 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
14	Glubokaya Army Barracks Atamanovka AL 1 51-54N 113-38E	Increase of approximately 180 trucks.
15	Staraya Kuka Military Depot SW DX 1 51-44N 113-01E	Increase of 6 rocket launchers, at least 250 FA pieces, and 100 AAA pieces.
16	Bezrechnaya Army Barracks AL 1 50-43N 116-10E	Increase of 167 tanks & 920 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
17	Tsugol Army Barracks AL 1 51-03N 115-38E	Facilities have been expanded;
18	Tsugol Military Area 51-02N 115-37E	Extensive construction; 5 FROG battalions, 1 poss FROG battalion, and approximately 100 FA pieces.
19	Mirnaya Army Barracks AL 1 50-45N 116-03E	Extensive construction; increase of approximately 120 FA pieces & 520 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
20	Shirlovaya Gora Army Barracks AL 1 50-31N 116-23E	Facilities have been expanded.

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Table 1. Activity at Ground Forces Installations. (Keyed to Figure 1). (Continued)

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Item	Installation	Type of Activity
21	Borzyn Army Barracks SW AL 1 50-22N 116-40E	Facilities have been expanded.
22	Kharanor Army Barracks SW AL 1 50-06N 116-40E	Extensive construction; increase of 430 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
23	Dauriya Army Barracks AL 1 49-55N 116-51E	Increase of approximately 600 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
24	Nadarovskiy Army Barracks Bilyutin AL 1 49-49N 117-05E	Extensive construction; increase of 100 tanks & 130 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
25	Sretensk Army Barracks 52-15N 117-43E	Facilities have been expanded; increase of 140 tanks & 650 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
26	Mogocha Army Barracks 53-43N 119-46E	New installation; approximately 100 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
FAR EAST MILITARY DISTRICT		
27	Vozzhayevka Army Barracks South 50-43N 128-43E	Extensive construction; increase of over 650 vehicles or pieces of equipment. MRBM equipment identified.
28	Magdagachi Army Barracks 53-25N 125-49E	Extensive construction; 30 tanks & approximately 160 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
29	Sredne Belaya Army Barracks 50-41N 128-02E	Construction of helicopter pads; helicopters identified; increase of approximately 100 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
30	Blagoveshchensk Army Bks Amur River AL 1 50-15N 127-29E	Increase of approximately 60 wheeled vehicles.
31	Pozdeyevka Army Bks AL 1 50-35N 128-52E	Facilities have been expanded.
32	Birobidzhan Army Barracks AL 1 48-47N 132-53E	Increase of 150 tanks & 650 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
33	Birobidzhan Army Bks SSE AL 3 48-43N 132-58E	Facilities have been expanded.
34	Bastovo Army Barracks 48-07N 132-27E	New installation; 90 tanks & 150 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
35	Leninskoye Military Installation 47-55N 132-38E	New installation; 37 tanks & 105 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
36	Khabarovsk Army Barracks Sita River AL 24 48-29N 135-27E	Increase of 125 tanks & 750 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
37	Bikin Army Barracks SE AL 1 46-48N 134-16E	Increase of approximately 30 tanks & 40 vehicles.
38	Sebuchar Army Barracks AL 1 45-48N 133-38E	Increase of approximately 70 tanks & 40 vehicles.
39	Lazo Army Barracks AL 1 45-51N 133-11E	Extensive construction; increase of approximately 700 vehicles or pieces of equipment. Vehicles associated with airborne troops present.
40	Lesozavodsk Army Barracks East AL 2 45-27N 133-26E	Facilities have been expanded. Increase of 120 tanks & 450 vehicles or pieces of equipment.

Table 1. Activity at Ground Forces Installations, (Keyed to Figure 1). (Continued)

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Item	Installation	Type of Activity
41	Platono-Aleksandrovskoye Army Bks AL 1 45-02N 131-59E	Increase of approximately 125 tanks & 100 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
42	Varfolomeyevka Airfield Southwest 44-16N 133-24E	Storage of 125 tanks, approximately 100 FA pieces & 220 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
43	Chernyshevka Veh Stor Maint Areas 44-12N 133-08E	Increase of approximately 400 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
44	Barano-Orenburgskoye Army Bks AL 1 44-21N 131-26E	
45	Sergeyevka Army Barracks AL 1 44-19N 131-40E	Facilities have been expanded.
46	Sofiye-Alekseyevskoye MRBM Site 44-15N 131-22E	Inactive as a MRBM site; now houses small ground force unit.
47	Ussuriysk Army Barracks West AL 3 43-47N 131-56E	Increase of approximately 50 wheeled vehicles.
48	Ussuriysk Ordnance Depot NW DO 2 43-50N 131-54E	Increase of approximately 700 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
49	Shkotovo Army Barracks AL 1 43-19N 132-21E	Facilities have been expanded.
50	Smolyaninovo Army Barracks AL 1 43-17N 132-28E	Increase of storage facilities; large numbers of boxes and crates are throughout the installation.
51	Slavyanka Army Barracks South AL 1 42-51N 131-23E	Facilities have been expanded.
52	Kraskino Army Barracks Central AL 1 42-42N 130-47E	Facilities have been expanded; increase of approximately 30 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
MONGOLIA		
53	Ulaan Baatar Army Barracks East 47-55N 106-59E	Installation has quadrupled in size since increase of approximately 1,600 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
54	Ulaan Baatar Army Barracks 47-55N 107-01E	New installation; approximately 200 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
55	Choybalsan Army Barracks East 48-04N 114-34E	Extensive construction; increase of approximately 100 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
56	Choybalsan Army Barracks West 48-03N 114-27E	Extensive construction; increase of 50 tanks & 165 vehicles or pieces of equipment.
57	Sayn Shanda Military Installation 44-52N 110-07E	Extensive construction; increase of approximately 100 tanks & 330 vehicles or pieces of equipment.

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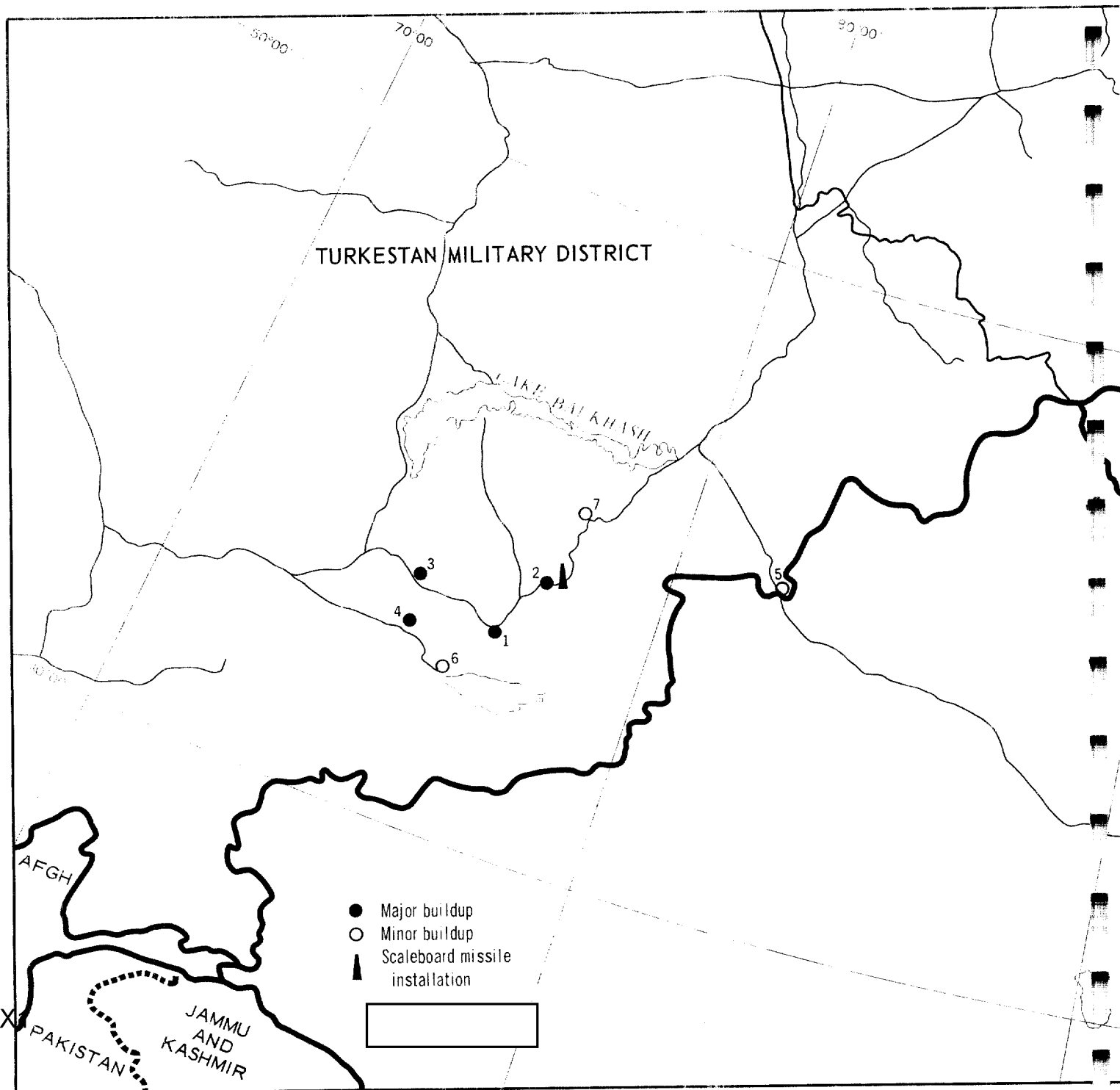
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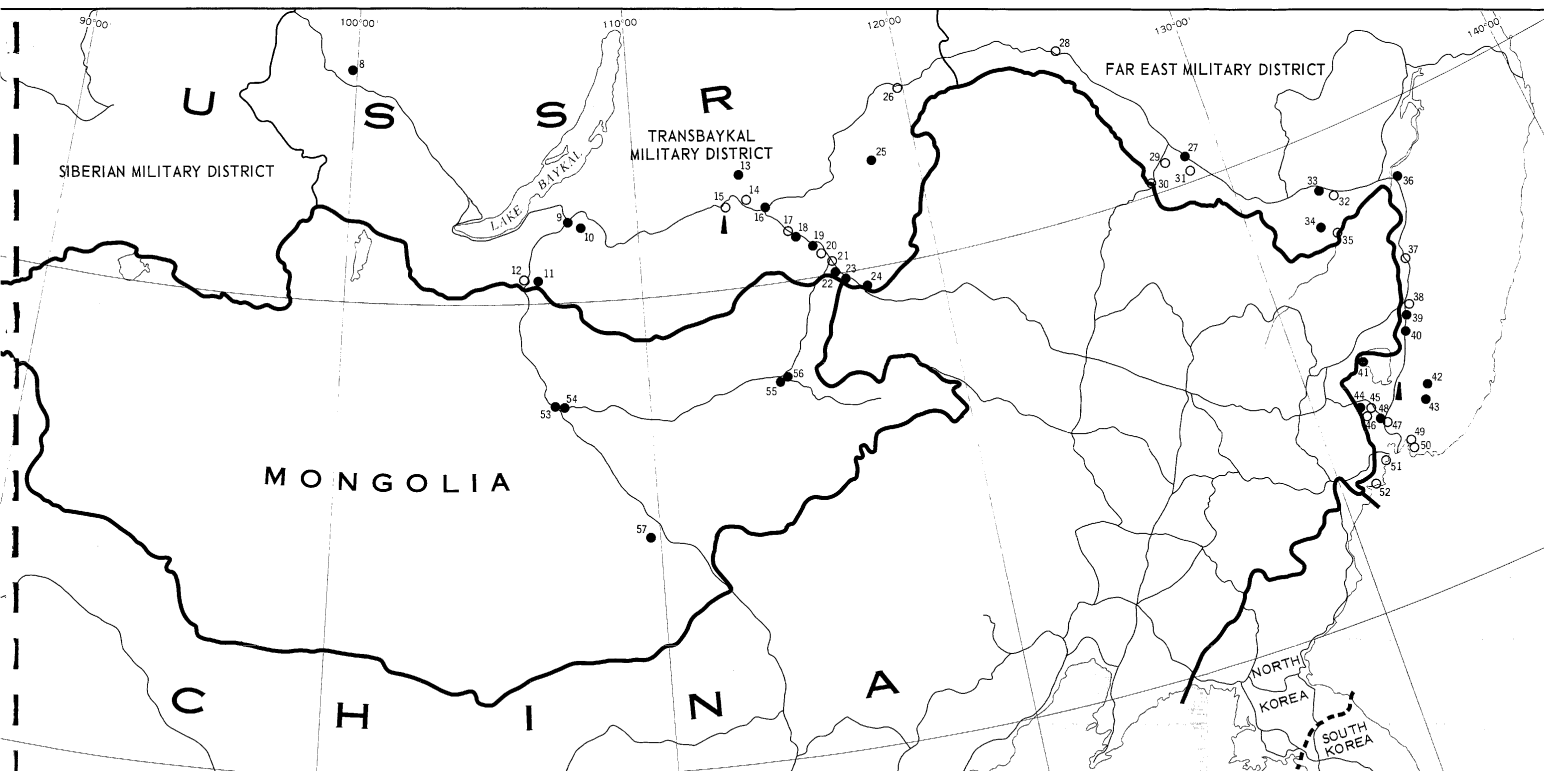


FIGURE 1. INCREASED GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY.

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ACTIVITY AT AIR FORCES INSTALLATIONS

Air activity has shown a corresponding increase during the past four years. During this period 11 airfields with runways more than 5,000 feet long were constructed in the USSR within 250 nm of the border and 12 new airfields were constructed in Mongolia. Two of the Mongolian airfields have concrete surfaced runways, and a regiment of tactical aircraft is stationed at each. The ten others are nearly identical in design to the graded-earth military airfields constructed within the USSR along the border. Table 2, which lists the new airfields, is keyed to Figure 2.

Major renovation or extension of runways has been observed at 15 other Soviet airfields along the border, and many airfields have had new construction such as aircraft revetments, hangarages, and dispersal areas. [] and in [] the new rocket-powered air-to-surface missile, the AS-5 (KELT), has been identified at three airfields in the Far East.

A significant increase in the number of aircraft deployed has been observed at 26 of the major fields in the border area. A study of photography of the 26 and others with runways more than 5,000 feet long provides the following data on increases in aircraft observed:

Type	Number of Aircraft Sighted*				
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Bombers	500	600	650	650	650
Fighters	550	850	1,700	1,600	1,800
Transports & Helicopters	450	600	1,000	1,100	1,150
Total	1,500	2,050	3,350	3,350	3,600

*Figures are approximate because not all airfields are covered on the same day, or even on the same mission.

[] the increase was primarily in the number of fighter and fighter-bomber aircraft. Tactical aircraft have been observed at four border area fields where none had been seen previously.

Table 3 provides additional information on the nature of construction activity and increases in aircraft observed during the period.

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Table 2. New Airfields Observed Between [REDACTED]
(Keyed to Figure 2).

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Item	Airfield	First Observed
USSR		
5	Otar West 43-32N 075-09E	
9	Chundzha New 43-35N 079-25E	
12	Uch-Aral NW 46-20N 080-43E	
13	Yenbekshi 46-11N 080-50E	
16	Sarybulak/Bukhtaminskoye More 47-40N 084-18E	
17	Karabulak/Bukhtaminskoye More 47-38N 084-34E	
20	Borgoy 50-46N 105-50E	
30	Kakhovka 50-48N 129-14E	
33	Mengon 49-58N 136-18E	
35	Yelabuga/Amur 48-46N 135-55E	
38	Kruglikovo 48-08N 135-08E	
MONGOLIA		
56	Nalayha 47-44N 107-22E	
57	Bayan Suma 47-21N 107-29E	
58	Sumber Suma 46-33N 108-19E	
59	Moron Suma 47-28N 110-03E	
60	Ondor Haan South 47-14N 110-37E	
61	Monho Haan Suma 47-08N 111-49E	
62	Bayan Monho Suma 46-16N 111-08E	
63	Sayn Shanda North 44-54N 110-08E	
64	Sayn Shanda ENE 45-09N 110-43E	
65	Olon Bayshing 48-04N 113-57E	
66	Choybalsan NE 48-08N 114-38E	
67	Enger Shand 48-46N 115-12E	

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Table 3. Increased Activity at Air Forces Installations, (Keyed to Figure 2).

Item	Airfield	Nature of Increased Activity
USSR		
1	Chirchik 44-30N 069-34E	Revetments & dispersal area constructed. FAGOT/FRESCO increased from 57 in
2	Kokand SE 40-22N 071-05E	A 7,900-foot asphalt or oiled runway added.
3	Andizhan 40-43N 072-17E	AAM facility was identified. First deployment of FLAGON to Sino-Soviet border.
4	Akyr Tobe 43-03N 073-11E	The 10,520-foot graded-earth runway was extended to 12,420 feet.
6	Balkhash 46-53N 075-00E	The 4,600-foot concrete runway was extended to 7,870 feet; a 3,200-foot graded-earth runway was extended to 8,000 feet; taxiways added; jet fighters (12) were first observed.
7	Hi South 43-13N 077-07E	The 8,100-foot graded-earth runway was extended to 9,700 feet and an 11,100-foot graded-earth runway was added. 15 MYA deployed here in late
8	Alma-Ata 43-20N 077-02E	The 9,150-foot concrete runway was extended to
10	Semipalatinsk 50-21N 080-13E	First deployment of FIDDLER aircraft to Sino-Soviet border.
11	Avanuz 47-55N 080-27E	A 10,000-foot graded-earth runway was added.
11	Ust-Kamenogorsk 50-01N 083-30E	A 7,000-foot concrete runway was under construction.
15	Kurchum 48-33N 083-41E	An 8,400-foot concrete runway was being added, late
18	Belaya 52-55N 103-34E	
19	Ulan-Ude 51-15N 107-27E	A 4,500-foot graded-earth runway was extended to 6,800 feet.
20	Borzya 50-16N 105-50E	Revetments were constructed when field was first identified.
21	Nyangi 50-40N 106-08E	First observation of jet fighters (35), and construction of aircraft revetments was underway. An 8,250-foot concrete runway was being added.
22	Domna 51-54N 113-07E	50 BEAGLE deployed here in
23	Nikolayevskoye 52-20N 116-50E	The 4,000-foot concrete runway was replaced by an 8,200-foot concrete runway and an 8,600-foot graded-earth runway was added. Revetments were added in
24		25 CAT/CUB were deployed, mid-
21	Karakur 51-16N 115-50E	and 12 BEAGLE and 7 MANGROVE.
25	Olovyannaya 51-01N 115-25E	A 9,700-foot graded-earth runway was added, and revetments were built by
26	Khadabulak Station, North 50-45N 116-12E	An 8,200-foot concrete runway replaced a 7,300-foot graded-earth runway, and an 11,700-foot graded-earth runway was added. Since
27	Khadabulak Station 50-37N 116-12E	revetments, dispersed areas, and hangarages have been added, and aircraft have increased from none to 88 FAGOT/FRESCO. Increase from 30 FAGOT/FRESCO to 70 during
28	Borzya Northwest 50-23N 116-20E	and revetments added.
29	Vozzhayevka Northeast 50-16N 128-47E	Revetments had been added by
		Revetments and hangarages added since
		First observation of FISHBED (4) in
		An 8,200-foot concrete runway replaced a 13,500-foot graded-earth runway; revetments and hangarages and an AAM facility added since
		increase from no OB to 8 jet fighters and 6 small straight-wing,

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Table 3. Increased Activity at Air Forces Installations, (Keyed to Figure 2). (Continued)

Item	Airfield	Nature of Increased Activity
31	Zavitinsk Northeast 50-11N 129-30E	26 BADGER deployed, KELT ASM identified,
32	Komsomolsk 50-35N 137-05E	Revetments observed,
34	Alekseyevka 49-14N 140-11E	KELT ASM identified,
36	Khabarovsk Northeast 48-31N 135-11E	5 BADGER deployed,
37	Khabarovsk 48-27N 135-09E	Increase from 4 to 50 FAGOT/FAGOT/FRESCO,
39	Verino 48-00N 135-06E	Hangarages were observed
40	Koksharovka 44-29N 134-03E	Revetments were observed,
41	Spassk-Dalniy East 44-36N 132-53E	18 FIREBAR deployed, Hangarages added,
42	Spassk-Dalniy 44-34N 132-50E	Increase from 45 FAGOT/FRESCO to 93 during
43	Voskresenka 44-34N 132-43E	Revetments added,
44	Sandagou 44-04N 133-52E	Increase to 51 FAGOT/FRESCO from 22, Revetments added,
45	Khorol East 44-26N 132-07E	Revetments added Increase from 11 BEAR to 18,
46	Osinovka 44-00N 132-12E	Revetments added, 26 FISHBED deployed here,
47	Ussuriysk/Vozdvizhenka 43-54N 131-55E	and increased to 63 in Revetments added,
48	Galenki Northeast 44-05N 131-48E	39 FISHBED deployed, AAM facility identi-
49	Ussuriysk/Novonikolsk 43-52N 131-52E	fied, and revetments, Revetments added by
50	Maykhe 43-25N 132-25E	14 BADGER deployed,
51	Novorossiyn 43-20N 132-33E	Revetments added 30 BEAGLE deployed, late
52	Uglovoye Northwest 43-20N 132-03E	15 FISHPOT and 13 FLASHLIGHT/FIREBAR deployed,
53	Sukhaya Rechka 43-01N 131-32E	FISHPOT increased to 27, Revetments added,
54	Artem North 43-23N 132-09E	KELT ASM identified,
55	Unashi 42-57N 133-07E	A 9,000-foot concrete runway replaced a 6,000-foot graded-earth runway; an 8,200-foot graded-earth runway was added, and revetments were added by Hangarages had been added by
56	Nalayha 47-44N 107-22E	16 FAGOT/FRESCO, 10 HOOK, and 11 HOUND were deployed, and revetments were observed,
65	Olon Bayshing 48-04N 113-57E	Revetments were under construction,
66	Choybalsan Northeast 48-08N 114-38E	46 FAGOT/FRESCO were deployed, and revetments were added by

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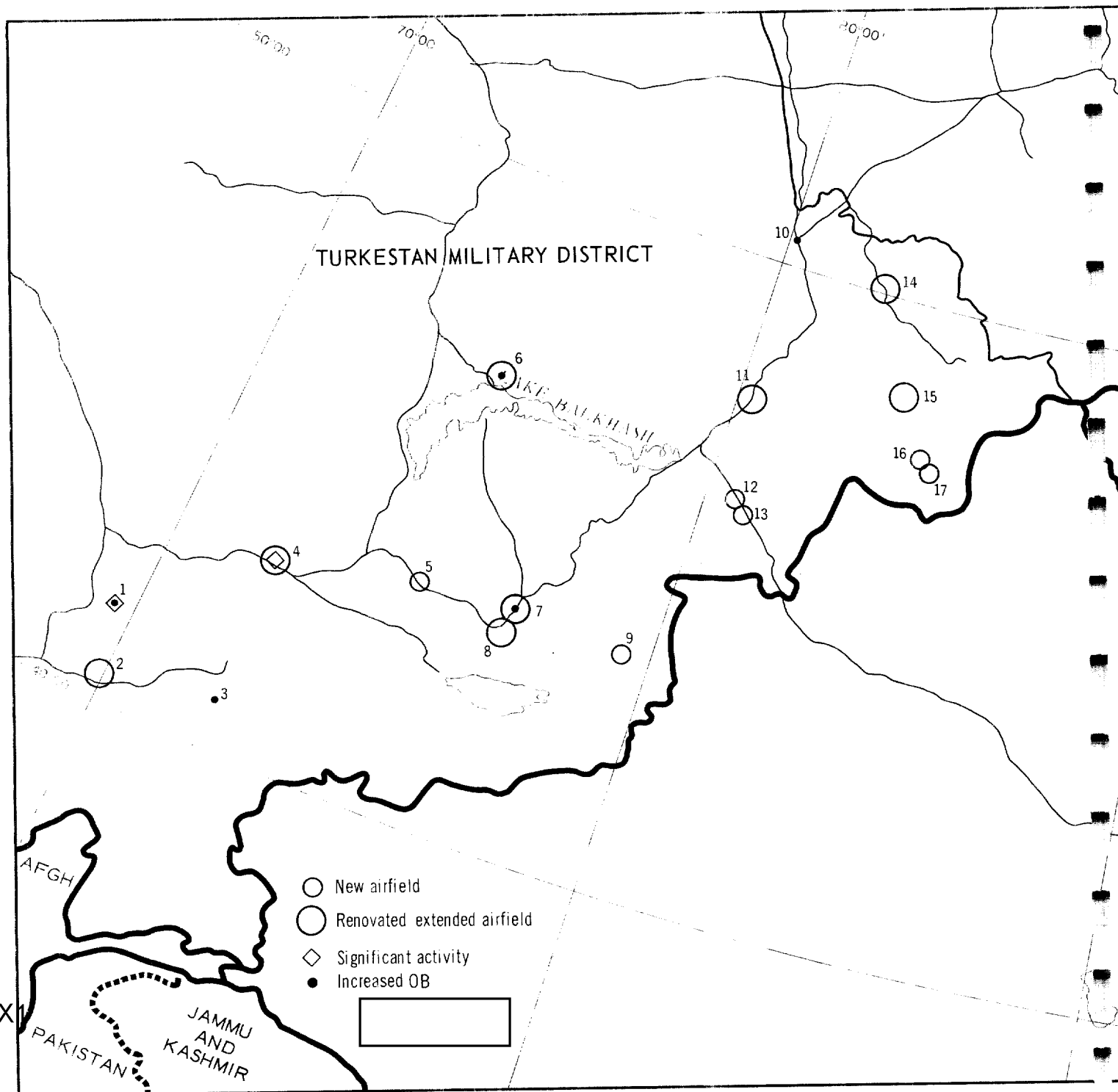
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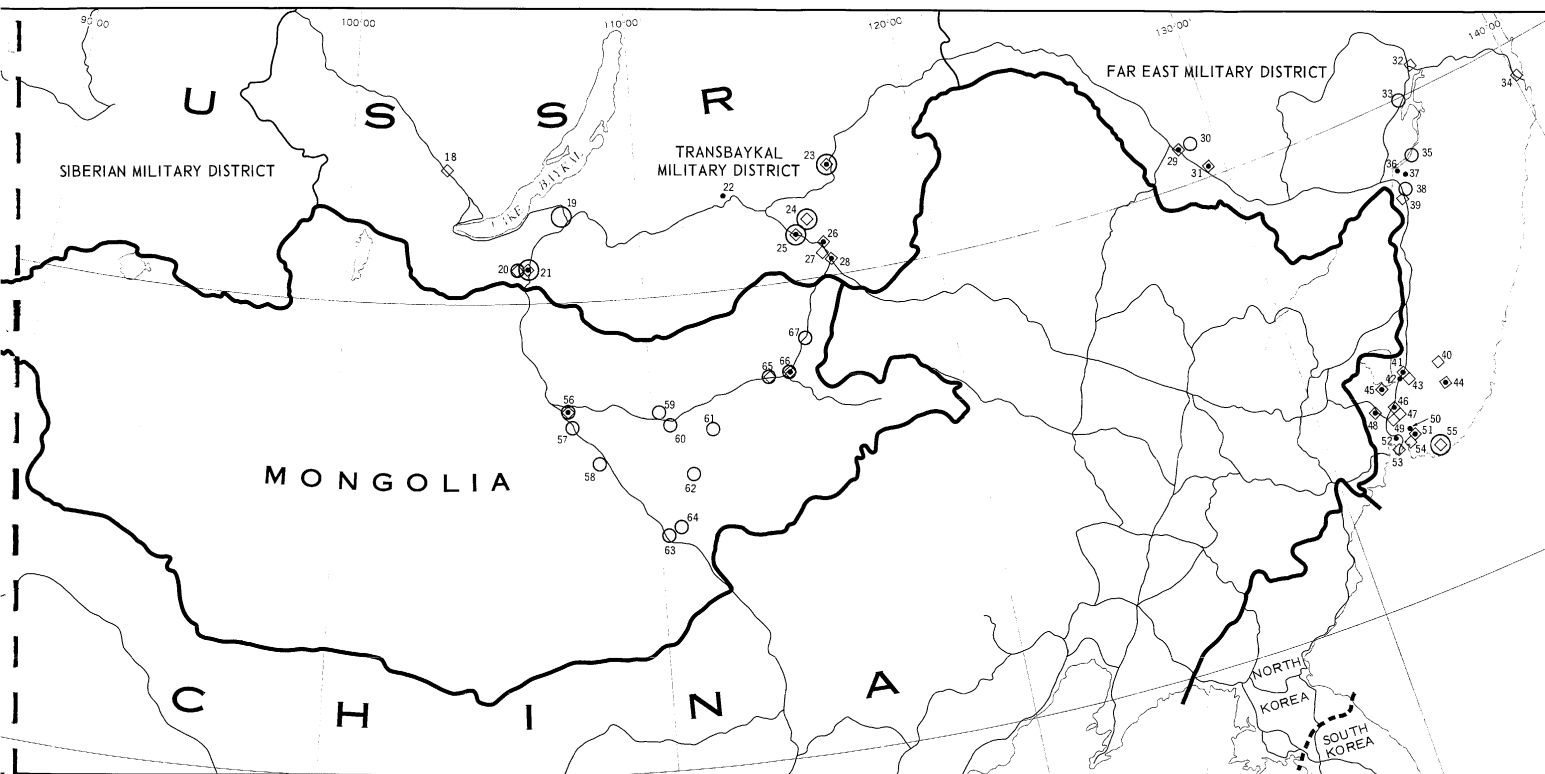


FIGURE 2. INCREASED AIR FORCES ACTIVITY.

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RELATED ACTIVITY

Missile Activity

Three SS-1 SCUD tactical missile brigades have been identified since [] all in the Far East MD, but small-scale photographic coverage precludes a determination of the time of initial deployment to these installations. The three are at the following barracks: Razdolnoye Tactical SSM Barracks AL 1 (43-30N 131-54E); Spassk-Dalniy Tactical SSM Barracks AL 5 (44-35N 132-49E); and Belogorsk Tactical SSM Barracks AL 5 (50-55N 128-22E). A fourth probable SCUD brigade was identified in [] at Nerchinsk Army Barracks AL 1 (51-59N 116-35E).

Six tactical SSM support facilities have also been observed, of which the one at Aga was under construction in []. The degree of activity observed at these facilities has generally been higher than that observed at their counterparts in the western portions of the USSR. The tactical SSM support facilities are at Ulan-Ude (51-50N 107-48E), Zavitinsk (50-09N 129-27E), Arys (42-27N 068-50E), Ussuriysk (43-41N 131-59E), Aga (51-04N 115-11E), and Krasnyy Kut (44-32N 132-50E).

Also identified in the Sino-Soviet border area is a new mobile missile system, the SCALEBOARD. This missile was first publicly displayed in the [] Moscow parade and has since been observed deployed only in the border area: one at Sary Ozek IRBM Complex (44-28N 77-57E), two sites at the Drovyanaya ICBM Complex (51-31N 113-01E), and three sites within the Kremovo MRBM Complex (44-12N 132-32E).

River Patrol Boats

It is significant that two new types of river patrol boats which have been added to the Soviet inventory are observed deployed only in the Amur River where it forms part of the Sino-Soviet border. One of these boats is a [] BMRL (boat monitor river light) which mounts a medium-tank-type turret. It has been seen at Komsomolsk Shipyard Amur 199 in [] and at Iman KGB Base in []. The other boat, constructed at Nikolayevsk Shipyard, is [] PBR (patrol boat river) mounting possible twin 25-mm guns and is []

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